

5-5-3 NAVY CONCORD WITHIN A FEW DAYS

Delegation Heads Are Busy
on the Text of Treaty to
Limit Warships.

JAPAN SEEN RECEDING

Not Likely to Hold Out for
10-10-7 Plan for Fleet
Ratio.

BRITAIN ENDS TOKIO IDEA

Fears France and Italy, Each
With Same Sea Power as
Japan, Might Combine.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
New York Herald Bureau.
Washington, D. C., Dec. 10.

That a complete agreement will be reached before Christmas for the limitation of the navies on a 5-5-3 ratio was the confident belief in all quarters to-night when it became known that the chiefs of the delegations are actually at work on the text of such a naval treaty.

The accord with which the "four Power" treaty was received to-day was regarded as making the naval agreement much easier, since it provided definite assurance that the territorial integrity of the possessions of the different nations would be respected. This was particularly true of the Japanese, who have been holding up the final approval of the naval proposals for further consideration.

High officials of the conference said to-night that the outlook was for a complete agreement on the naval programme within a "very short time." Pressed for a better estimate of the period that might elapse, they said it "might be three days and it might be three weeks, but that the chances are better that it will be three days." It was generally conceded that the agreement would be reached before Christmas.

Relief Over Japan's Action.
The situation was cleared up considerably when it became known that the Japanese will be willing, in the circumstances, to recede from their contention that they should have a naval force that is 70 per cent. as large as that maintained by the United States and Great Britain.

Some confusion had arisen about an interchange of cablegrams between Admiral Baron Kato, the Japanese Naval Minister, and the delegate who is handling the naval problem in the conference, and the Tokyo Government. It had been supposed that Admiral Kato had asked Tokyo for instructions as to how to proceed in the settlement of the naval issue.

This impression was corrected by those close to Admiral Kato, who said that such communications as are going on with Tokyo will not necessarily control the final decision. In other words, Admiral Kato came to Washington with the fullest powers for action, but is anxious that such action as he takes will be approved by the other officials of the Japanese Government. He is keeping them informed as to the developments, asking for advice and for opinions, so that there may be no suspicion that he is doing anything that is not understood. It is said that this sentiment in Japan is getting around to a place where the 5-5-3 ratio is being approved and that there is no doubt of such approval now that Japan is a party to the "four Power" treaty respecting territorial rights. It is said to be the Japanese disposition to regard the new treaty as a pledge against attack that will be tangible evidence that the Japanese Government is warranted in restricting the size of the navy to a point smaller than sought in the first instance.

Secretary Hughes, Arthur J. Balfour and Admiral Kato were in communication to-day over the terms of the naval agreement. They had much to consider in the way of detail, and it is likely that much more work will have to be done on it before the plan is completed. With the "four Power" treaty out of the way, after occupying much of the time of the discussions of the last two weeks, they are able to devote themselves entirely to the naval agreement.

The treaty is being written and agreed to point by point. This does not mean, of course, that the terms have been accepted in entirety, but that they are being debated as they come up, those which have failed of an agreement being passed over to be taken up later. When these are settled, therefore, the signing of the treaty will be expedited.

Admiral Kato and the other members of the Japanese delegation are said to have made it plain to the United States and to Great Britain that they will not stand in the way of a final agreement, even though it is on the "5-5-3" basis. They have attempted to convince the Americans and the British that they should have a navy on a "10-10-7" basis, but have been careful to explain that such arguments as they presented were not in a spirit of interrupting the programme, but simply to insure their national protection.

Britain's Danger From Combine.
In this context, however, they have been alone, for the United States and Great Britain have stood for the "5-5-3" ratio. In this connection the British position, as outlined by some who should be aware of all the facts, is interesting. France and Italy, as is known, are to be taken into the naval agreement and, in all probability on a "3-3" basis; that is, with navies each of which equals the size of Japan's. The British, considering all possibilities of the future, are anxious to insure a continuation of their naval superiority in European waters.

They have figured, therefore, that a possible combination of the navies of France and Italy, on a "3-3" basis, would be "6" against "5." Apparently they are willing to take their chances on such a thing, but they are opposed to any increase above that ratio, such as that which would come if the basis were "10-10-7." In such an event, provided the French and Italians would get a navy as large as Japan's, a combination of European navies against the British would be "14" against "10." This is said to be the underlying reason for the British determination that the ratio as outlined by Secretary Hughes must not be changed.

Those who have been following the facts closely say that Admiral Kato recognizes the force of the British position and that the Japanese delay in giving complete approval to the programme is due entirely to a desire to unite all factions at home.

Dr. Iyemaga Calls Pact Most Masterful Stroke

DR. T. IYEMAGA, formerly professor of political science at the University of Chicago and formerly secretary in the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Japanese Government, in commenting upon the four Power treaty yesterday, said:
"I believe it is one of the most masterful strokes ever conceived by the brains of man. I am greatly impressed by its clarity, simplicity and at the same time by its far reaching effects on the well being of mankind."

PACIFIC AGREEMENT PLEASING TO FRANCE

Officials Gratified at Inclusion
in Agreement as a Great
Power.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
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New York Herald Bureau.
Paris, Dec. 10.

Although at a late hour this evening the Quai d'Orsay was still without official confirmation of the four Power accord drafted in Washington, officials did not hesitate to express their gratification that France was included. In fact, after Premier Briand's endeavors to obtain a definite rapprochement with the big Powers, the French would not have understood the omission of France from any such contract, especially as she takes her interests in the Pacific just as seriously as do England and Japan.

Now that her name is linked with those of the United States, England and Japan, certain officials profess to see the possibility that a way will be opened to other treaties which will take the place of Mr. Wilson's promised tripartite agreement and give the French greater guarantees than even Premier Briand considered possible when he left here for Washington.

"We have been recognized as a great Power," said one official of the Foreign Office to-night, "and if France does not reap any other advantage from the conference that is sufficient to warrant Premier Briand's voyage."

The French press has not yet had an opportunity to gauge properly the results of the new treaty, the first details of which left much uncertainty as to whether the alliance was merely confined to insular possessions or was to be extended to Asiatic colonies.

Only two newspapers bring up the warning that the effects will be too localized to change much the present status of affairs in the Pacific. With this, the *Action Française* insists, "the Washington conference has not initiated anything at all. While the new entente is an excellent thing, it merely regularizes the existing situation. It is merely a mutual assurance of contract just as Japan, England and France

have already concluded accords protecting their mutual possessions." The same newspaper concludes with the question: "Will the new agreement prevent the nations from making other agreements which will best serve their interests outside of islands?"

The *Avenir* says: "The agreement has a certain diplomatic value, but a very localized one. What is most important is that we are to participate in a new equilibrium with the United States, England and Japan, and because of this we may be able to exercise in more distant regions the influence to which we are entitled."

It sees a danger of the nations eventually breaking over the question of insular possessions which will give France, because of her participation in international agreements, a splendid opportunity to act as a mediator in the prevention of armed conflict. "But apart from these purely national considerations," it adds, "the Pacific agreement is pregnant with promise, as the United States thereby enters into a political combination which is essentially extra-American and consequently emerges in a restricted but certain measure from her systematic policy of isolation. This in itself is an interesting beginning, of which full value must be taken."

NEW MEXICAN WAR HEAD.

Serrano Replaces Estrada. Who
Takes Villareal's Post.

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 10 (Associated Press).—Gen. Francisco R. Serrano was formally sworn in to-day as head of the War Department, succeeding Gen. Enrique Estrada, who takes over the Agriculture portfolio following the resignation of Antonio Villareal. Gen. Estrada will take the oath of office Monday.

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Tea Gowns of chiffon velvet, moulton-trimmed; lined throughout with georgette crepe	\$37.50
Tea Gowns of crepe-back satin, with sleeves of georgette crepe	\$32.50
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For Monday

Another Extraordinary Sale of

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